

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY A/SY/FO:MKDALTON:CCK

APPROVED BY A/SY/FO - VERNE F. ST. MARS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.8. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MARINE SECURITY GUARD - PHNOM PENH

HONG KONG FOR RSS/RMO

SUMMARY: GIVE TO THE COMPANY COMMANDER OF THE MARINES IN SAIGON, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MARINES IN PHNOM PENH BECAUSE OF HIS CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO PHNOM PENH'S NEEDS.

1. THE EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH HAS INDICATED THE DESIRE FOR AN ADDITIONAL MARINE OR TWO TO TAKE CARE OF NEEDS WHEN THE POST IS SHORT A WATCHSTANDER OR TWO FOR SICKNESS OR OTHER REASONS. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT AN ADDITIONAL MARINE BE ASSIGNED TO BANGKOK FOR THIS PURPOSE BECAUSE OF THE PERSONNEL QUOTA IN PHNOM PENH.

2. HOWEVER, A SOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE MSG BATTALION MAY HAVE MORE MERIT. HE RECOMMENDS THAT THE PHNOM PENH MARINES BE PLACED UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COMPANY COMMANDER OF COMPANY "E" IN SAIGON. THE CO OF
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COMPANY "E" COULD PROVIDE FAST AND EFFECTIVE TEMPORARY RE-

PLACEMENTS OR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY FROM SAIGON.

3. THIS APPEARS TO BE AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTION BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE SAIGON COMPLEMENT AND THE AVAILABILITY OF QUICK TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH.

CONCURRENCE OF PHNOM PENH AND SAIGON ARE REQUESTED, IN ORDER TO REASSIGN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PHNOM PENH MARINE COMPLEMENT TO THE CO OF COMPANY "E". KISSINGER

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